

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KINGST 05735 201533Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 AID-05 OMB-01 /087 W
-----118362 210826Z /20

R 201411Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2435
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY NASSAU
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 5735

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, JM
SUBJECT: BY-ELECTION NOMINATIONS

REF: KINGSTON 5536

1. SUMMARY: NOMINATIONS FOR THE UPCOMING BY-ELECTION WERE CONDUCTED WITHOUT TROUBLE THIS TIME AROUND. THE GOVERNMENT STALWART DUDLEY THOMPSON WILL GO AGAINST EIGHT NON-ENTITIES, BUT HE COULD BE HUMILIATED BY A CLOSE VOTE. THIS BY-ELECTION IS ILLUSTRATIVE OF VARIOUS CURRENTS: PNP HEAVY-HANDEDNESS AND POSSIBLE SIGNS OF GOING ALL OUT FOR A ONE-PARTY STATE; VIOLENCE AND GENERAL DISENCHANTMENT WITH ELECTORAL POLITICS; THE UNDERLYING EFFECTS OF THE "GREEN BAY" AFFAIR; THE MALADROIT OPPOSITION; AND THE STILL POWERFUL AND EFFECTIVE FORCE OF PUBLIC OPINION. END OF SUMMARY.

2. THE WEST ST. ANDREW BY-ELECTION APPEARS TO BE BACK ON TRACK AFTER ITS DIFFICULTIES. (LAST WEEK'S NOMINATIONS WERE SUBSEQUENTLY ANNULLED BECAUSE OF INTIMIDATION AND APPARENT IRREGULARITIES IN PROCEDURES -- SEE REFTEL.) POLLING DATE IS SET FOR AUGUST 3. NINE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KINGST 05735 201533Z

CANDIDATES WERE NOMINATED, AND THOUGH THERE WAS A LARGE CROWD OF PEOPLE'S NATIONAL PARTY (PNP) SUPPORTERS PRESENT, THE AFFAIR WAS PEACEFUL. THE POLICE WERE OUT IN FORCE.

3. THE PNP CANDIDATE, DUDLEY THOMPSON, WAS AGAIN NOMINATED. HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY VARIOUS DIGNITARIES INCLUDING PM MANLEY, WHO ADDRESSED THE CROWD. ALSO NOMINATED WERE H. CHARLES JOHNSON, PRESIDENT OF

THE JAMICA UNITED FRONT; CLAIRE PALMER OF THE AMERICAN-JAMAICA ALLIANCE; AND INDEPENDENTS ALUDIA THOMPSON, DOROTHY LANDELLS, GEORGE R. MILLER, MIRIAM PALMER, GLORIA THOMPSON AND EVELYN WALTERS. THE OPPOSITION JAMAICA LABOR PARTY DID NOT OSTENSIBLY FIELD ANY CANDIDATES. INCIDENTALLY, THE JAMAICA UNITED FRONT IS A SMALL BUT GROWING LITTLE PARTY. THE PRESIDENT, JOHNSON, IS AN EX-POLICEMAN AND IS VERY AGGRESSIVE. HE SHOULD PULL SOME VOTES AWAY FROM THOMPSON. THE AMERICA-JAMAICA ALLIANCE IS A HERETOFORE UNKNOWN GROUP DEDICATED TO US STATEHOOD FOR JAMAICA. WE DOUBT IF IT HAS ANY POLLING POWER.

4. THERE ARE STILL SOME LEGAL DIFFICULTIES. THE JLP IS THREATENING TO GO TO COURT TO ANNUL THE ANNULMENT OF THE FIRST TRY AT NOMINATIONS, CLAIMING THE PROCEDURE WAS ILLEGAL. MR. DONALD THOMPSON, NOMINATED LAST WEEK, IS MAKING THE SAME CLAIM, AND DID NOT GO FOR NOMINATION AGAIN CONSIDERING HIMSELF LEGALLY NOMINATED THE FIRST TIME.

5. COMMENT: THIS CONFUSING AND SOMEWHAT ZANY AFFAIR (E.G. FIVE PEOPLE NAMED THOMPSON TRIED TO GET ON THE BALLOT THE FIRST TIME AROUND) IS OF SOME SIGNIFICANCE IN DEMONSTRATING VARIOUS FACTORS AT WORK IN TROUBLED JAMAICA AT THIS TIME. THE INTIMIDATION, ETC. LAST WEEK WAS APPARENTLY ORGANIZED IN ADVANCE BY THE PNP AND WAS A BIT HEAVY-HANDED EVEN BY JAMAICAN STANDARDS. THE WIDESPREAD BELIEF AND ASSUMPTION IS THAT THE PNP HAS BECOME SO ATTACHED TO POWER THAT IT WILL NEVER ALLOW FREE ELECTIONS AGAIN, AND THE NOMINATION FIASCO WAS CITED AS EXHIBIT NO. 1. IN ADDITION, THE BY-ELECTION WILL

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 KINGST 05735 201533Z

BE CRUCIAL TO THE FUTURE OF A KEY PNP POLITICIAN, DUDLEY THOMPSON, WHO HAS BEEN MUCH INVOLVED IN, AND CRITICIZED OVER, THE JAMAICAN PROTO-WATERGATE "GREEN BAY" AFFAIR. THOMPSON, ALTHOUGH A PNP HEAVYWEIGHT FOR YEARS, (HE WAS FOREIGN MINISTER EARLIER.) HAS MISSED BEING ELECTED TO THE LOWER HOUSE IN THREE PREVIOUS TRIES. HE HAS BEEN GETTING A VERY BAD PRESS, AND HE DID NOT AGREE TO RUN FOR THE SEAT UNTIL IT WAS APPARENT THAT THE JLP WOULD NOT FIELD AN OFFICIAL CANDIDATE.

6. THE JLP HAS GOTTEN ITSELF BOXED IN BY ITS BOYCOTT STANCE. IT HAD EARLIER DECLARED A BOYCOTT OF ALL ELECTIONS UNTIL ELECTORAL REFORM IS IMPLEMENTED. HOWEVER, CONSIDERING THE UGLY MOOD IN THE GHETTOS, WHERE ECONOMIC CONDITIONS ARE APPALLING AND GETTING WORSE, MOST JAMAICANS ARE RELIEVED THAT THE TWO HEAVIES (PNP AND JLP) WILL NOT BE FIGHTING, AND SHOOTING AT EACH OTHER, DURING THIS BY-ELECTION. SOME GOOD INFORMANTS HAVE ASSURED US THAT THE "INDEPENDENT" CANDIDATES ARE, IN REALITY, JLP STOOGES, AND HAVE BEEN PUT UP IN AN ATTEMPT TO EMBARRASS THOMPSON. THEY COULD WELL SIPHON OFF A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF VOTES, TAKING ADVANTAGE OF ANTI-PNP SENTIMENT, ANTI-THOMPSON SENTIMENT, AND GENERAL DISSATISFACTION OVER THE DETERIORATING ECONOMIC SITUATION. THOMPSON IS EXPECTED TO WIN HANDILY, BUT IF HE DOES NOT WIN BIG WHEN UNOPPOSED BY JAMAICA'S ONLY

OTHER POLITICAL PARTY, IT WILL MEAN A REAL HUMILIATION TO THE PNP.
THE BY-ELECTION IS THUS THE FIRST REAL TEST OF THE GOVERNMENT'S
AND MANLEY'S POLULARITY OR LACK THEREOF IN SOME TIME.

7. THE AFFAIR ALSO INDICATES THE STILL POWERFUL EFFECT OF PUBLIC
OPINION AND A FREE PRESS IN JAMAICA. MANLEY WAS QUITE LITERALLY
FORCED TO ANNUL THE NOMINATIONS BY GREAT PUBLIC OUTCRY OVER THE
BLATANT TACTICS USED LAST WEEK. THE OUTCRY WAS ORCHESTRATED BY
THE JLP AND IMPLEMENTED BY THE FIERCELY INDEPENDENT DAILY GLEANER.
MOST JAMAICANS EXPECT TROUBLE, VIOLENCE, AND PROBABLE ATTEMPTS AT
INTIMIDATION, VOTE FRAUD, ETC. ON POLLING DAY. THE EXPECTATION
ITSELF IS INDICATIVE OF THE MOOD.
IRVING

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NOMINATION, BYELECTION, ELECTION CANDIDATES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978KINGST05735
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780299-1188
Format: TEL
From: KINGSTON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780739/aaaabgng.tel
Line Count: 128
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e06da66f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 KINGSTON 5536
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1942302
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BY-ELECTION NOMINATIONS
TAGS: PINT, JM
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e06da66f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014